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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Foreign Intelligence

30 October 1953

SUBJECT: Project AEQUOR

1. PURPOSE: AEQUOR is a joint FI-PP project designed to utilize the facilities of the Byelorussian National Council (BNR) in order to conduct clandestine operations within the Byelorussian SSR (BSSR). The objectives are: (a) to contact and support resistance movements in BSSR; (b) to support and utilize an agent team currently collecting operational and positive intelligence in the BSSR; and (c) to establish a support structure for the conduct of future clandestine activities into the BSSR and from the BSSR into other areas of the USSR.
2. PERSONNEL AND COVER: The following persons currently are directly connected with project AEQUOR:

- (a) CAMBISTA/2 - Chief operations officer, chief recruiter and spotter. He lives in Belgium.
- (b) CAMBISTA/4 - President of the BNR and senior advisor to the over-all CIA/BNR joint operation. He lives in the U.S. *No. P. 16*
- (c) CAMBISTA/5 - Liaison officer between the BNR and CIA, who can be used also as instructor and safe-house keeper. He lives *No. 1. 16* in London.
- (d) CAMBISTA/10 - One of the three witting BNR personnel. A principal agent type, he resides in the U.S.
- (e) CAMBISTA/11 - Spotter and researcher who is in Belgium.
- (f) CAMBISTA/13 - A political informant.
- (g) CAMPOSANTO/6, 8, and 9 - Members of the agent team currently operating within the BSSR.

(Note: CAMPOSANTO/3 is a potential agent who is not being <sup>probably F-15</sup> used at present. He is the nephew of CAMBISTA/4 and is suspected of ~~his~~ connections. CAMPOSANTO/1 was the singleton who has not been heard from. CAMPOSANTO/2, 5, and 7 have been disposed of. CAMPOSANTO/4 was killed inside the BSSR, and CAMPOSANTO/10 is a potential agent.)

In addition to the above personnel, three agents will be recruited and trained for dispatch to the BSSR in fiscal year 1955. Initial spotting and recruiting will be done in the name of the emigre organization. When

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turned over to CIA, the agents will know only that they are working for American intelligence. Cover, both in the United States while they are undergoing training at DOB, and after infiltration, will vary as circumstances require.

3. CONTACT, CONTROL AND MOTIVATION: Contact between agents within the BSSR and their base will be maintained by W/T and letter drops. Motivation is ideological. Control is based upon allegiance to the BNR cause, and upon financial dependence on CIA of each agent.
4. HISTORY: Project AEQUOR was first approved on 22 September 1951, for a cost to FI of [ ] OPC was to bear an equal cost plus an additional [ ] for FY 1952. In the fall of 1951 a singleton was infiltrated into Byelorussia; no word has been received from this agent since. In June 1952, an amendment was granted raising agent death benefits from \$5,000 to \$10,000, as a result of pressure from the BNR. Late in 1952 a four-man team was air-dropped into Byelorussia. The leader of this group was subsequently killed, two are living black, while the fourth has been able to establish himself legally. Intermittent W/T contact has been established with this team, but to date very little useful positive intelligence information has been received from it and indications are that the team has been successful in effecting contact with local inhabitants only to a very limited degree. In December 1952, AEQUOR was renewed retroactively for the period 1 July to 31 December 1952, for [ ] In March 1953, AEQUOR was extended through 30 June 1953, for [ ]
6. FI STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: As a result of a meeting which was held on this subject, 18 November 1953, there being present [ ] C/FI/Plans; [ ] and [ ] Plans Staff; [ ] FI/OPS; Messrs. [ ] and [ ] STC; Messrs. [ ] and [ ] SR. It was agreed that AEQUOR shall be renewed for the period 1 July 1953 through 30 June 1954, for [ ] with the following stipulations:

- (a) A thorough CE analysis of the BNR, including research into available material, and spot surveillances (if possible) of BNR members who are connected with AEQUOR, will commence immediately.
- (b) Efforts will continue to establish the bona-fides of the team which is now in the BSSR.
- (c) Training and preparation of the new team will proceed, but this team will not be dispatched until the results of the study of the BNR, and establishment of the bona-fides of the team now in the BSSR, have clarified the risks involved in a new dispatch of agents.

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- (d) Every effort will be exerted to arrange for exfiltration from the BSSR of one or more members of the team currently in that area.

The agreed total figure of [ ] for which your approval is recommended, is broken down as follows: compensation, [ ] travel, \$5,000; operational expenses, \$1,000; foreign currency, \$15,000; materiel, \$7,300.

The manner in which the CE study of the BNR is to be initiated and undertaken is the subject of a separate memorandum, now being prepared by the Plans/Projects Branch.

[ ]

Chief, Plans

Approved: [ ]

Chief, FI

23 Nov 53

Date

ATTACHMENT: Project Outline AEQUOR

cc: C/FI  
STC/SPB  
FI/OPS  
RI for Vital Records

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